

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 6, 11, 17, 19, 21, 24, 25 and 28 and cancel claims 2, 5, 16, 22 and 31 without prejudice as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for reducing power consumption in a mobile communication device having a backlight illumination unit powered by a voltage source, the apparatus comprising:

converting means providing a constant voltage output;

enabling means turning the converting means off and on; and

switching means applying one of the voltage source output and the constant voltage output to the backlight illumination unit,

wherein the enabling means:

converts the voltage source output to digital data and determines if the digital data corresponds to a predetermined value; and

turns the converting means off and controls the switching means to apply the voltage source output to the backlight illumination unit when the voltage source output is at least the predetermined value and turns the converting means on and applies the constant voltage output to the backlight illumination unit when the of the voltage source output is below the predetermined value.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising scaling means dividing the of the voltage source output by a designated factor.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the designated factor is approximately 50%.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the enabling means comprises an analog-digital converter.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the converting means is one of a charge-pump and a DC-DC converter.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a second enabling means turning the backlight illumination unit off independent of the converting means.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the second enabling means comprises a transistor.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the switching means comprises a FET.

11. (Currently amended) An apparatus for reducing power consumption in a mobile communication device having a display, the apparatus comprising:

a voltage source;

a backlight illumination unit illuminating the display;

a converting unit providing a constant voltage to the backlight illumination unit;

a switching unit bypassing the converting unit and applying the voltage source output to the backlight illumination unit; and

a controller converting the voltage source output to digital data, determining the output voltage of the voltage source, turning the converting unit off and on, and enabling and disabling the switching unit such that one of the voltage source output and the constant voltage is applied to the backlight illumination unit.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the controller turns off the converting unit and enables the switching unit when the voltage source output is at least a predetermined value.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a scaling unit dividing the voltage source output by a designated factor.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the scaling unit comprises at least one resistor.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the designated factor is approximately 50%.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~16~~11, wherein the controller comprises an analog-digital converter.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the converting unit is one of a charge-pump and a DC-DC converter.

19. (Currently amended) ~~The An apparatus of claim 11 for reducing power consumption in a mobile communication device having a display, the apparatus comprising:~~

a voltage source;

a backlight illumination unit illuminating the display;

a converting unit providing a constant voltage to the backlight illumination unit;

a switching unit bypassing the converting unit and applying the voltage source output to the backlight illumination unit; and

a controller determining the output voltage of the voltage source, turning the converting unit off and on, and enabling and disabling the switching unit such that one of the voltage source output and the constant voltage is applied to the backlight illumination unit,

wherein the controller independently turns off the backlight illumination unit and converting unit.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the switching unit comprises a FET.

21. (Currently amended) A mobile communication device, comprising:  
a display;  
a backlight illumination unit illuminating the display;  
a voltage source providing power to the backlight illumination unit;  
a converter providing a constant voltage;  
a switch applying one of the voltage source output and the constant voltage to the backlight illumination unit; and

a controller turning the converter off and applying the voltage source output to the backlight illumination unit when the voltage source output is at least a predetermined value and turning the converter on and applying the constant voltage to the backlight illumination unit when the voltage source output is below the predetermined value,

wherein the predetermined value is approximately 4 Volts DC.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The device of claim 21, wherein the converter is one of a charge pump and a DC-DC converter

24. (Currently amended) A mobile communication ~~The device of claim~~  
24, comprising:  
a display;  
a backlight illumination unit illuminating the display;  
a voltage source providing power to the backlight illumination unit, wherein the  
backlight illumination unit comprises comprising two or more LEDs;  
a converter providing a constant voltage;  
a switch applying one of the voltage source output and the constant voltage to  
the backlight illumination unit; and  
a controller turning the converter off and applying the voltage source output to  
the backlight illumination unit when the voltage source output is at least a  
predetermined value and turning the converter on and applying the constant voltage to  
the backlight illumination unit when the voltage source output is below the  
predetermined value.

25. (Currently amended) A mobile communication ~~The device of claim~~  
24, comprising:  
a display;  
a backlight illumination unit illuminating the display;  
a voltage source providing power to the backlight illumination unit;  
a converter providing a constant voltage;  
a switch applying one of the voltage source output and the constant voltage to  
the backlight illumination unit; and  
wherein the controller comprises a CPU turning the converter off and applying  
the voltage source output to the backlight illumination unit when the voltage source  
output is at least a predetermined value and turning the converter on and applying the  
constant voltage to the backlight illumination unit when the voltage source output is  
below the predetermined value.

26. (Previously presented) The device of claim 21, wherein the controller comprises a general purpose input/output (GPIO) unit.

27. (Original) The device of claim 21, wherein the display is an LCD.

28. (Currently amended) A method for reducing power consumption in a mobile communication device having a backlight illumination unit powered by a voltage source, the method comprising:

generating a constant voltage output;

converting the voltage source output to digital data;

measuring the voltage source output; and

comparing the digital data to data corresponding to the predetermined value; and

applying one of the voltage source output and the constant voltage output to the backlight illumination unit,

wherein the voltage source output is applied to the illumination unit if the voltage source output is at least a predetermined value and the constant voltage output is applied to the backlight illumination unit if the voltage source output is below the predetermined value.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising scaling the voltage source output by a designated factor.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the designated factor is approximately 50%.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the constant voltage output is at least the predetermined value.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising turning off the backlight illumination unit independent from a converting means that generates the constant voltage output.